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Construction of the Moir causeway at Uttukottai.

*1230 Q.—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Moir causeway at Uttukottai was recently constructed by the Chingleput District Board at a cost of Rs. 37,700;

(b) whether the Government are aware that considerable damage has been caused to the causeway on account of some rains on the 12th November 1928;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints from the people in and near Uttukottai, that the damage has been caused to the causeway on account of the flimsy nature of the work by the contractor and on account of the absence of effective supervision and control over the contractor by the District Board and the Engineering department;

(d) whether patch works are being done to repair the damage; and

(e) whether, in view of the importance of the matter, the Government would direct the District Board to have the causeway examined by independent experts and have the repairs done in accordance with their advice?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government understand that the floods of November 1928 caused damage to the causeway to the extent of Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,000.

(c) No.

(d) The District Board has carried out the repairs immediately necessary to restore traffic.

(e) The Government are inquiring into the nature of the damage and the repairs necessary.

Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that part of the allotment made for this causeway proper was utilized for the construction of ornamental archways?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I am not aware, Sir."

Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR:—"Will the hon. Minister get that information, Sir?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN:—"May I ask the hon. Minister whether he made thorough enquiries and satisfied himself that all the money allotted for this purpose was spent on it?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"When a local body says that they spent the amount, we have to take it for granted that it has been spent."

Levy of toll-gate fees by the Madura District Board.

*1231 Q.—Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether toll-gate fees are collected by all the district boards at a uniform rate and if so, what is the rate for motor-cars;

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(*b*) whether in any of the district board areas toll-gate fees are levied only once and that at the first gate and whether the rest of the gates through which the car passes that day are considered as clearance gates; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that if a car is to pass about 80 miles at a stretch, the owner has to pay not less than Rs. 4 in the Madura District Board?

A.—(*a*) No. The maximum rate of tolls leviable on motor-vehicles is given in Rule 26 of Schedule IV to the Madras Local Boards Act. District Boards levy tolls at such rates as they settle not exceeding this maximum.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government have no information.

Mr B RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" With reference to (*b*) and (*c*), will the Government be pleased to call for the information?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Yes, Sir."

Damages to buildings in Tuni by the recent floods.

* 1232 *Q.*—Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a portion of the town of Tuni abutting the Thandava river is in a precarious state on account of the erosion caused by the river;

(*b*) whether substantial buildings crumbled down during the recent floods and a number of substantial houses now are in a critical condition on account of their being situated on the bank which is being eroded through; and

(*c*) whether the Government propose to construct a stone embankment with a view to prevent the danger?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no precise information in the matter. The report of the Collector of East Godavari, a copy of which has been placed on the table, gives some indication of the damage done.

(*c*) There is no such proposal before the Government. It is for the local body concerned to move in the matter in the first instance.

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" May I know whether the Government will call for the particular information because damage was done and further damage is imminent to buildings."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I do not think it is necessary, Sir."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" Now that the local body has not moved in the matter, will the Government take the initiative?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I think there is no necessity for that, Sir."